DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 435 781 UD 033 186

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TITLE	Declines in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991-98: Update of National and State Trends.
INSTITUTION	National Center for Health Statistics (DHHS/PHS), Hyattsville, MD.
REPORT NO	DHHS-(PHS)-2000-1120
PUB DATE	1999-10-25
NOTE	13p.
AVAILABLE FROM	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, 6525 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782-2003.
PUB TYPE	Collected Works - Serials (022) -- Numerical/Quantitative Data (110)
JOURNAL CIT	National Vital Statistics Reports; v47 n26 Oct 1999
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Adolescents; *Birth Rate; Births to Single Women; *Early Parenthood; Females; *Pregnancy; Tables (Data)

ABSTRACT

This report includes national birth rates for teenagers for 1991-98; the percent of change, 1991-98; state-specific teenage birth rates for 1991 and 1997; and the percent change, 1991-97. Data are in the form of tabular and graphical descriptions of the trends in teenage birth rates by age group, race, and Hispanic origin of the mother. The data for 1997 and earlier years are based on 100 percent of the birth certificates registered in all states and the District of Columbia. Data for 1998 are preliminary, based on a sample file of more than 99 percent of births for that year. According to the statistics, birth rates for teenagers age 15-19 years declined nationally between 1991 and 1998 for all age, race, and Hispanic origin populations, with the steepest declines recorded for African American women. The teenage birth rate is close to a record low. Statistics show that most teenage births are to unmarried women. State-specific rates by age fell in all states, with most declines statistically significant. Overall declines ranged from 9 to 32 percent. (SM)

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ED 435 781

Volume 47, Number 25 October 25, 1999

Declines in Teenage Birth Rates, 1991–98: Update of National and State Trends

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents national birth rates for teenagers for 1991–98; the percent change, 1991–98; State-specific teenage birth rates for 1991 and 1997; and the percent change, 1991–97.

Methods—Tabular and graphical descriptions of the trends in teenage birth rates by age group, race, and Hispanic origin of the mother are discussed.

Results—Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years declined nationally between 1991 and 1998 for all age, race, and Hispanic origin populations, with the steepest declines recorded for black women. State-specific rates by age fell in all States, with most declines statistically significant; overall declines ranged from 9 to 32 percent.

Keywords: teenage fertility • State-specific birth rates • fertility trends • teenage pregnancy

Teenage birth rate down 18 percent since 1991, close to record low

The birth rate (preliminary) for U.S. teenagers in 1998 was 51.1 live births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years, 2 percent lower than the rate in 1997, and 18 percent lower than in 1991 **(table 1 and figure 1)** (1). The 1998 rate (preliminary) is close to the 1986 record low of 50.2 (2). The U.S. teen birth rate rose 24 percent from 1986 to 1991, when it reached 62.1, the highest level recorded in 20 years (64.5 in 1971). The previous peak period for teen birth rates was the late 1950's; the birth rate was highest in 1957, at 96.3 births per 1,000 (2).

The total of 484,975 births (preliminary number) to women aged 15–19 years in 1998 was slightly higher than the number in 1997 (483,220), but still 7 percent lower than the recent high in 1990 of 521,826. The small 1997–98 increase in the number reflects the 3-percent increase in the number of teenage females in the population between 1997 and 1998 (3).

Details of trends and variations in teenage childbearing in the 1990's, including some discussion of the health consequences and the demographic and behavioral changes accounting for the recent trends, have been published in a recent report (2). This report updates the findings through 1998 for national data and through 1997 for State statistics.

Most teenage births are to unmarried women

The proportion of births to teenagers that were to unmarried teens continued to increase in 1998, according to preliminary data. The proportion unmarried rose to 78.8 percent for all teenage births, up from 78.2 percent in 1997. For teenagers 15–17 years, the percent increased from 86.7 to 87.4 percent, while for older teens, it rose from 72.5 to 73.5 percent **(table A)**.

The total number of births to teenagers 15–17 years and the number of births to unmarried teenagers 15–17 years declined from 1997 to 1998. However, the total number declined even more than the number of nonmarital births. As a result the percent unmarried for teenagers 15–17 years continued to increase.

Although the proportion of teenage births that are nonmarital continues to rise, it is still the case that most births to unmarried women are not to teenagers. In 1998, 70 percent were to women aged 20 and older.

Teenage birth and pregnancy rates fall

When data on live births are combined with information for induced abortions and fetal losses, pregnancy rates can be computed.

Acknowledgments

This report was prepared in the Reproductive Statistics Branch (RSB) of the Division of Vital Statistics (DVS). Melissa Park of RSB provided table review. The report was edited by Patricia Keaton-Williams, typeset by Jacqueline M. Davis, and graphics produced by John Chang of the Publications Branch, Division of Data Services.

ED435786

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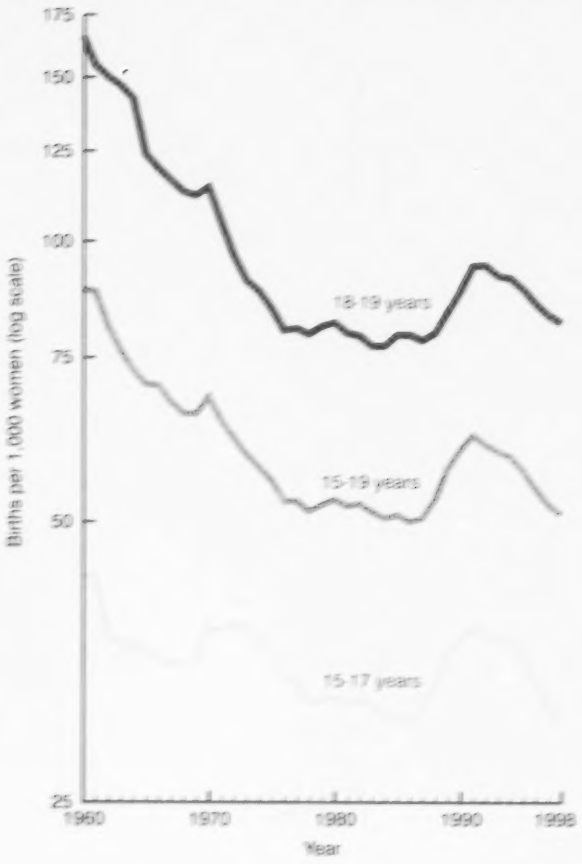

Figure 1. Birth rates for teenagers by age: United States, 1960–98

Because information on the latter two outcomes is not as current as information on live births, the most recent year for which teenage pregnancy rates can be computed is 1996. The estimated teen pregnancy rate in 1996 was 98.7 per 1,000 women aged 15–19, down 15 percent from its high point of 116.5 in 1991 (4). A consistent series of pregnancy rates for teenagers have been available since 1976; the 1996 rate is lower than the rate of any year since 1976.

Table A. Number of total births and percent of births to unmarried women, all ages and women under 20 years: United States, final 1997 and preliminary 1998

Age of mother	Total births		Births to unmarried women		Percent unmarried	
	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997
All ages	3,944,046	3,880,894	1,292,534	1,257,444	32.8	32.4
Under 20 years	494,456	493,341	389,721	385,802	78.8	78.2
Under 15 years	9,481	10,121	9,152	9,685	96.5	95.7
15–19 years	484,975	483,220	380,569	376,117	78.5	77.8
15–17 years	173,252	180,154	151,445	156,253	87.4	86.7
18–19 years	311,724	303,066	229,124	219,864	73.5	72.5

Birth rates decline for teenagers in all age groups

The birth rate for the youngest teenagers, 10–14 years, fell to 1.0 per 1,000, its lowest level since 1969 (also 1.0) (table 1). Moreover, the **number** of births to teenagers in this age group fell, to 9,481 in 1998, down 6 percent from 1997 and down 27 percent from its recent high in 1994 (12,901 births).

The birth rate for teenagers 15–17 years declined 5 percent from 1997 to 1998, to 30.4 per 1,000, a record low for this age group. The rate has fallen 21 percent since 1991; this decline essentially reverses the 27-percent increase in the rate from 1986 (30.5) to 1991 (38.7). The number of births in this age group dropped to 173,252, the lowest number since 1987 (2).

The birth rate for teenagers 18–19 years declined 2 percent in 1998, to 82.0. This rate has dropped 13 percent since its 1992 high of 94.4. The number of births in this age group increased 3 percent, reflecting the 5-percent increase in the number of teenage females 18–19 years (3).

Birth rates fall most steeply for black teenagers

Birth rates have dropped sharply for black teenagers since 1991, declining overall by 26 percent, from 115.5 in 1991 to 85.3 per 1,000 aged 15–19 (table 1, **figure 2**), lower than in any year since 1960, when data for black women first became available (2). The rate for Hispanic women has declined steadily since 1994 (107.7) and was 93.7 in 1998, dropping 13 percent in 4 years. Despite these declines, birth rates for black and Hispanic teenagers continue to be higher than those for other groups; the rates for Hispanic teens have been higher than the rates for black teens since 1994. Asian or Pacific Islander teenagers have the lowest rate (23.1 in 1998).

Birth rates have declined as well for non-Hispanic white (35.2 per 1,000 in 1998), American Indian (71.8), and Asian or Pacific Islander teenagers (23.1), with declines ranging from 16 to 19 percent since 1991 (table 1).

Teenage birth rates vary greatly by State

Birth rates vary substantially by State. In 1997 the most recent year for which State-specific rates can be computed, the rates per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years ranged from 26.9 (Vermont) to 73.7 (Mississippi) (**table 2**). The highest rate reported was for Guam (106.3).

As previously reported, differences in overall rates by State reflect in part the differences in the composition of the teenage populations of the States by race and Hispanic origin (2,5,6). Rates are much higher for Hispanic and black teenagers than for non-Hispanic white teenagers (**table 1**). This pattern is found for all States (except Louisiana) for which reliable rates could be computed for each population (**table 3**). Therefore, States with relatively high proportions of Hispanic and/or black teenagers would be expected to have higher overall teenage birth rates. These compositional differences should be considered when comparing teenage birth rates across States (6).

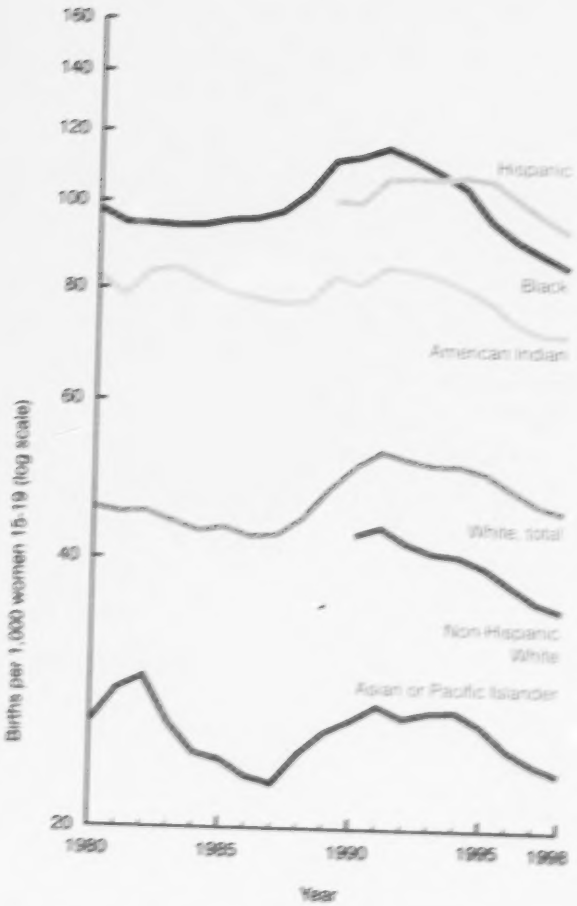

Figure 2. Birth rate for teens aged 15–19 years by race and Hispanic origin: United States, 1980–98

Between 1991 and 1997, birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years fell in all States and the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands, with statistically significant reductions in all areas except Rhode Island and Guam (**table 2 and figure 3**). Declines exceeded 20.0 percent in 10 States and the District of Columbia.

Birth rates for teenage subgroups also vary greatly by State. Rates for teenagers 15–17 years fell significantly in all but six States, the Virgin Islands, and Guam, with declines exceeding 20.0 percent in 14 States and the District of Columbia. The rates for the District of Columbia, Maine, and Vermont declined at least 35 percent. State-specific rates for older teenagers 18–19 years also declined, with statistically significant reductions reported for all but six States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The declines for older teenagers were generally smaller than those for younger teens; rates fell significantly by 20.0 percent or more in five States and the Virgin Islands.

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Figure 3. Percent decline in teenage birth rates by State, 1991 to 1997

Table 1. Number of births to women under 20 years by age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 1998; birth rates, 1991–98; and percent change in rates, 1991–98

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

Age, race, and Hispanic origin of mother	Number of births, 1998[1]	Birth rates								Percent change in rates, 1991–98
		1998[1]	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	
10–14 years										
Total	9,481	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	–28.6
White, total	4,821	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	–12.5
Non-Hispanic white	2,145	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	–20.0
Black	4,291	2.9	3.3	3.6	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	–39.6
American Indian[2]	195	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.6	0.0
Asian or Pacific Islander	174	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	–50.0
Hispanic[3]	2,721	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.4	–12.5
15–19 years										
Total	484,975	51.1	52.3	54.4	56.8	58.9	59.6	60.7	62.1	–17.7
White, total	340,894	45.4	46.3	48.1	50.1	51.1	51.1	51.8	52.8	–14.0
Non-Hispanic white	212,292	35.2	36.0	37.6	39.3	40.4	40.7	41.7	43.4	–18.9
Black	126,865	85.3	88.2	91.4	96.1	104.5	108.6	112.4	115.5	–26.1
American Indian[2]	8,174	71.8	71.8	73.9	78.0	80.8	83.1	84.4	85.0	–15.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	9,043	23.1	23.7	24.6	26.1	27.1	27.0	26.6	27.4	–15.7
Hispanic[3]	121,455	93.7	97.3	101.8	106.7	107.7	106.8	107.1	106.7	–12.2
15–17 years										
Total	173,252	30.4	32.1	33.8	36.0	37.6	37.8	37.8	38.7	–21.4
White, total	116,699	25.9	27.1	28.4	30.0	30.7	30.3	30.1	30.7	–15.6
Non-Hispanic white	68,657	18.4	19.4	20.6	22.0	22.8	22.7	22.7	23.6	–22.0
Black	50,062	56.8	60.8	64.7	69.7	76.3	79.8	81.3	84.1	–32.5
American Indian[2]	3,155	44.3	45.3	46.4	47.8	51.3	53.7	53.8	52.7	–15.9
Asian or Pacific Islander	3,336	13.7	14.3	14.9	15.4	16.1	16.0	15.2	16.1	–14.9
Hispanic[3]	48,266	62.3	66.3	69.0	72.9	74.0	71.7	71.4	70.6	–11.8
18–19 years										
Total	311,724	82.0	83.6	86.0	89.1	91.5	92.1	94.5	94.4	–13.1
White, total	224,195	74.7	75.9	78.4	81.2	82.1	82.1	83.8	83.5	–10.5
Non-Hispanic white	150,635	60.6	61.9	63.7	66.1	67.4	67.7	69.8	70.5	–14.0
Black	76,803	126.8	130.1	132.5	137.1	148.3	151.9	157.9	158.6	–20.1
American Indian[2]	5,019	118.0	117.6	122.3	130.7	130.3	130.7	132.6	134.3	–12.1
Asian or Pacific Islander	5,707	38.2	39.3	40.4	43.4	44.1	43.3	43.1	43.1	–11.4
Hispanic[3]	73,189	140.2	144.3	151.1	157.9	158.0	159.1	159.7	158.5	–11.5

[1] Data for 1998 are preliminary.
[2] Includes births to Aleuts and Eskimos.
[3] Includes all persons of Hispanic origin of any race.

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Table 2. Birth rates for teenagers aged 15–19 years by age group and State, and percent change by age: United States and each State, 1991 to 1997

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	1991			1997			Percent change: 1991–97		
	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years	15–19 years	15–17 years	18–19 years
United States[1]	62.1	38.7	94.4	52.3	32.1	89.1	–15.8	–17.2	–5.6
Alabama	73.9	47.7	109.5	66.6	43.4	100.2	–9.9	–9.1	–8.5
Alaska	65.4	35.3	111.7	44.6	25.1	73.6	–31.8	–29.0	–34.1
Arizona	80.7	51.4	122.6	69.7	44.0	111.2	–13.6	–14.4	–9.3
Arkansas	79.8	49.4	122.8	72.9	42.9	119.2	–8.6	–13.1	–2.9**
California	74.7	46.9	113.6	57.3	36.2	90.5	–23.3	–22.9	–20.3
Colorado	58.2	35.3	91.4	48.2	29.9	77.2	–17.2	–15.5	–15.5
Connecticut	40.4	26.3	59.4	36.1	22.5	58.1	–10.6	–14.5	–2.2**
Delaware	61.1	40.3	87.1	55.8	36.8	83.3	–8.7	–8.6**	–4.3**
District of Columbia	114.4	102.8	125.5	91.0	65.9	122.4	–20.5	–35.9	–2.5**
Florida	68.8	44.0	102.9	57.7	35.1	94.2	–16.1	–20.2	–8.4
Georgia	76.3	50.6	110.9	67.2	44.0	102.8	–11.9	–13.0	–7.3
Hawaii	58.7	34.7	91.5	43.8	25.3	69.6	–25.4	–27.1	–23.9
Idaho	53.9	29.3	90.8	43.3	23.3	72.5	–19.7	–20.6	–20.2
Illinois	64.8	40.6	99.1	54.7	34.4	87.6	–15.6	–15.2	–11.7
Indiana	60.5	35.2	95.2	54.2	32.1	87.6	–10.4	–8.7	–7.9
Iowa	42.6	22.8	71.5	35.7	20.1	60.4	–16.2	–12.1	–15.5
Kansas	55.4	29.4	94.1	48.5	27.5	81.7	–12.5	–6.4**	–13.2
Kentucky	68.9	42.6	105.5	59.6	35.4	95.0	–13.5	–17.0	–9.9
Louisiana	76.1	51.1	111.4	66.3	42.1	101.4	–12.9	–17.6	–9.0
Maine	43.5	23.8	70.1	32.0	15.4	58.3	–26.4	–35.0	–16.8
Maryland	54.3	35.2	79.8	43.9	28.2	68.8	–19.2	–19.9	–13.7
Massachusetts	37.8	25.2	52.9	31.7	19.1	50.8	–16.1	–24.3	–4.0**
Michigan	59.0	35.5	91.1	43.9	25.4	72.2	–25.6	–28.4	–20.8
Minnesota	37.3	20.7	61.4	32.0	17.8	55.1	–14.2	–14.1	–10.2
Mississippi	85.6	60.1	120.4	73.7	50.2	108.8	–13.9	–16.4	–9.6
Missouri	64.5	38.7	100.7	51.5	29.6	86.3	–20.2	–23.7	–14.2
Montana	46.7	23.6	83.0	37.6	20.1	65.2	–19.5	–14.8	–21.4
Nebraska	42.4	23.6	69.2	37.2	21.3	61.6	–12.3	–9.8**	–10.9
Nevada	75.3	43.9	119.1	67.7	42.2	109.1	–10.1	–3.8**	–8.4
New Hampshire	33.3	17.1	53.8	28.6	14.0	53.0	–14.1	–18.2	–1.4**
New Jersey	41.6	26.3	62.9	35.0	21.3	56.7	–15.9	–19.0	–9.9
New Mexico	79.8	50.0	124.4	68.4	44.4	106.3	–14.3	–11.2	–14.5
New York	46.0	29.1	69.0	38.8	23.4	62.3	–15.7	–19.4	–9.8
North Carolina	70.5	46.2	101.7	61.3	37.7	97.3	–13.0	–18.5	–4.3
North Dakota	35.6	18.1	62.4	30.1	14.3	55.0	–15.4	–20.9	–11.8
Ohio	60.5	36.2	93.8	49.8	28.6	82.6	–17.7	–21.1	–12.0
Oklahoma	72.1	41.7	115.6	64.3	37.3	107.4	–10.8	–10.7	–7.1
Oregon	54.9	31.3	90.7	46.9	27.0	78.2	–14.6	–13.7	–13.8
Pennsylvania	46.9	29.2	70.5	37.3	21.9	61.3	–20.5	–25.0	–13.0
Rhode Island	45.4	30.1	63.6	42.7	27.6	65.6	–5.9**	–8.2**	3.2**
South Carolina	72.9	48.0	105.4	61.4	40.0	93.0	–15.8	–16.6	–11.8
South Dakota	47.5	26.3	79.2	39.7	21.8	66.3	–16.4	–17.2	–16.3
Tennessee	75.2	47.8	112.1	64.5	38.5	103.8	–14.2	–19.4	–7.4
Texas	78.9	50.4	119.3	71.7	47.1	110.1	–9.1	–6.6	–7.7
Utah	48.2	27.0	79.8	42.6	23.7	68.3	–11.6	–12.3	–14.5
Vermont	39.2	21.3	62.0	26.9	12.1	51.2	–31.4	–43.3	–17.6
Virginia	53.5	31.8	81.2	44.2	26.1	70.8	–17.4	–17.8	–12.8
Washington	53.7	31.0	86.5	42.5	24.5	70.7	–20.9	–20.8	–18.2
West Virginia	57.8	32.4	93.2	49.1	27.5	80.3	–15.1	–15.1	–13.9
Wisconsin	43.7	24.8	71.2	35.9	21.4	58.8	–17.8	–13.7	–17.4
Wyoming	54.2	26.4	98.6	43.3	23.3	75.8	–20.1	–12.1**	–23.1
Puerto Rico	72.4	50.8	105.9	77.8	57.6	106.6	7.5	13.4	0.7**
Virgin Islands	77.9	48.6	124.0	66.0	45.6	96.7	–15.3	–6.2**	–22.0
Guam	95.7	55.0	156.1	106.3	61.4	178.2	11.1**	11.6**	14.2**
American Samoa	----	----	----	43.9	20.7	81.5	----	----	----

** Not significant at p<0.05.
---- Data not available.
[1] Excludes data for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

NOTE: Birth rates by State in this table are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (5) and, therefore, the rates shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates.

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Table 3. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years by age and race/Hispanic origin: United States and each State, 1997

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	15–19 years					15–17 years					18–19 years				
		White					White					White			
	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]
United States	52.3	46.3	36.0	88.2	97.3	32.1	27.1	19.4	60.8	66.3	89.1	75.9	61.9	130.1	144.3
Alabama	66.6	54.5	53.9	90.1	87.5	43.4	31.6	31.3	66.7	"	100.2	88.5	87.5	122.3	"
Alaska	44.6	33.6	32.3	"	73.6	25.1	17.2	16.3	"	"	73.6	57.6	56.0	"	"
Arizona	69.7	70.0	41.2	74.9	126.3	44.0	43.9	22.6	49.5	86.7	111.2	111.6	71.1	116.6	188.0
Arkansas	72.9	63.9	61.9	104.2	123.2	42.9	34.1	32.6	73.7	82.2	119.2	110.5	108.0	148.8	"
California	57.3	61.5	28.6	71.6	95.2	36.2	39.2	14.9	44.4	64.9	90.5	96.0	50.2	113.3	140.7
Colorado	48.2	47.2	31.1	68.8	112.9	29.9	29.4	16.2	41.1	83.5	77.2	75.2	54.7	113.1	159.4
Connecticut	36.1	30.6	17.6	78.2	115.5	22.5	18.4	9.2	53.3	79.9	58.1	50.2	31.3	118.2	171.0
Delaware	55.8	40.3	37.2	107.8	"	36.8	25.4	23.6	73.8	"	83.3	61.1	56.2	160.7	"
District of Columbia	91.0	22.0	7.1	139.4	88.6	65.9	27.0	"	79.0	"	122.4	19.7	7.3	286.7	"
Florida	57.7	48.0	42.9	92.2	65.3	35.1	27.2	23.2	63.2	42.0	94.2	81.9	75.9	137.4	99.0
Georgia	67.2	54.0	50.0	92.6	125.9	44.0	31.4	29.1	68.0	74.9	102.8	89.3	82.7	129.6	200.6
Hawaii	43.8	22.0	19.5	37.2	95.4	25.3	8.4	6.7	"	60.0	69.6	39.4	35.9	"	142.1
Idaho	43.3	43.3	37.6	"	101.8	23.3	23.3	19.5	"	63.4	72.5	72.3	64.1	"	156.1
Illinois	54.7	42.0	29.9	115.1	105.3	34.4	23.9	16.0	82.6	65.5	87.6	71.2	52.2	169.0	168.3
Indiana	54.2	49.5	47.8	99.1	97.1	32.1	28.1	26.8	68.5	65.2	87.6	81.8	79.4	148.2	143.8
Iowa	35.7	33.6	32.1	104.7	93.4	20.1	18.2	17.2	76.8	62.6	60.4	57.7	55.5	145.9	140.2
Kansas	48.5	44.5	39.7	105.3	106.3	27.5	24.3	20.6	71.3	72.7	81.7	76.6	70.1	158.7	159.3
Kentucky	59.6	56.6	56.2	90.9	102.0	35.4	32.6	32.4	65.7	"	95.0	92.1	91.3	125.2	"
Louisiana	66.3	48.1	48.5	94.0	34.7	42.1	26.8	26.8	66.0	25.4	101.4	80.0	81.2	132.6	46.6
Maine	32.0	31.9	31.7	"	"	15.4	15.4	15.3	"	"	58.3	58.0	57.8	"	"
Maryland	43.9	30.0	28.4	75.0	49.1	28.2	16.7	15.6	53.3	32.1	68.8	51.0	48.9	109.1	72.8
Massachusetts	31.7	28.0	19.9	75.4	115.0	19.1	16.2	10.1	47.5	77.9	50.8	46.0	34.8	123.9	176.9
Michigan	43.9	35.4	33.2	88.3	84.2	25.4	18.9	17.2	59.1	57.4	72.2	60.7	57.8	132.8	123.9
Minnesota	32.0	26.1	23.6	119.4	137.4	17.8	13.2	11.5	84.6	88.3	55.1	46.9	43.0	178.7	210.6
Mississippi	73.7	51.9	51.7	98.9	"	50.2	30.3	30.3	73.4	"	108.8	84.5	84.4	136.4	"
Missouri	51.5	44.3	43.5	97.8	79.3	29.6	23.6	22.9	67.8	54.3	86.3	77.3	76.3	146.6	111.7
Montana	37.6	31.0	30.0	"	"	20.1	14.7	14.0	"	"	65.2	56.5	54.8	"	"
Nebraska	37.2	33.3	29.4	101.2	99.5	21.3	18.2	15.6	71.7	62.3	61.6	56.2	50.3	151.5	156.3
Nevada	67.7	65.5	48.0	98.0	121.0	42.2	39.7	27.0	70.5	82.3	109.1	107.4	82.2	141.2	177.6
New Hampshire	28.6	28.7	28.3	"	"	14.0	13.8	13.4	"	"	53.0	53.5	53.2	"	"
New Jersey	35.0	26.0	14.1	79.8	78.7	21.3	14.5	6.7	55.4	52.0	56.7	44.3	26.2	116.7	117.4
New Mexico	68.4	69.0	40.6	54.0	91.3	44.4	45.2	22.6	39.2	63.4	106.3	106.3	69.5	"	134.4
New York	38.8	33.2	21.9	64.1	74.3	23.4	19.3	11.6	41.1	47.1	62.3	54.0	37.3	100.9	116.4
North Carolina	61.3	51.0	45.4	85.6	204.2	37.7	29.1	25.8	58.3	122.4	97.3	84.5	75.4	125.9	321.9
North Dakota	30.1	24.7	23.9	"	"	14.3	10.8	10.3	"	"	55.0	46.5	45.2	"	"
Ohio	49.8	42.1	41.1	100.4	83.8	28.6	22.5	21.8	68.0	53.6	82.6	72.3	71.0	151.0	128.7
Oklahoma	64.3	57.9	54.8	94.7	102.9	37.3	31.9	29.5	67.3	69.9	107.4	99.1	95.1	134.8	154.0
Oregon	46.9	46.1	38.8	72.4	125.2	27.0	26.1	21.0	50.6	85.6	78.2	77.9	67.4	105.5	186.9
Pennsylvania	37.3	29.4	25.8	100.7	117.5	21.9	15.8	13.1	69.2	84.4	61.3	50.5	45.7	151.7	168.3
Rhode Island	42.7	38.2	27.6	83.9	145.4	27.6	24.3	15.7	50.6	106.2	65.6	59.1	45.1	"	"
South Carolina	61.4	48.3	47.4	82.7	86.6	40.0	29.1	28.4	57.2	64.8	93.0	76.2	75.1	121.2	"
South Dakota	39.7	30.1	29.6	"	"	21.8	15.2	14.8	"	"	66.3	51.4	50.5	"	"
Tennessee	64.5	55.0	53.9	99.5	121.5	38.5	29.9	29.1	70.2	77.5	103.8	93.2	91.5	143.5	"
Texas	71.7	71.4	43.5	85.3	107.7	47.1	46.7	23.9	57.5	77.0	110.1	109.8	74.2	128.1	156.2
Utah	42.6	41.9	36.5	"	118.5	23.7	23.2	19.2	"	80.8	68.3	67.4	60.1	"	168.4

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 3. Birth rates for teenagers 15–19 years by age and race/Hispanic origin: United States and each State, 1997—Con.

[Rates per 1,000 women in specified group]

State	15–19 years					15–17 years					18–19 years				
		White					White					White			
	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]	All	Total	Non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic[1]
Vermont	26.9	27.4	27.6	*	*	12.1	12.3	12.4	*	*	51.2	52.0	52.7	*	*
Virginia	44.2	35.0	32.9	76.0	68.6	26.1	18.4	16.9	51.9	43.7	70.8	59.4	56.3	110.9	101.7
Washington	42.5	41.4	34.8	67.4	106.3	24.5	23.3	18.8	43.1	69.2	70.7	69.6	60.0	104.2	160.8
West Virginia	49.1	48.5	48.6	72.3	*	27.5	26.8	26.8	50.1	*	80.3	79.9	80.3	100.2	*
Wisconsin	35.9	27.2	24.5	127.9	103.6	21.4	14.6	12.8	88.9	65.3	58.8	46.9	42.9	197.6	166.7
Wyoming	43.3	42.4	40.2	*	72.5	23.3	22.2	20.3	*	*	75.8	75.0	72.4	*	*

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision (based on fewer than 20 births or fewer than 1,000 women in specified group).

[1] Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

NOTE: Rates by race and Hispanic origin cannot be computed for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, because populations are not available by race and Hispanic origin for these areas. Birth rates shown in this table are based on population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (5), and, therefore, may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates.

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Technical notes

Data shown in this report for 1997 and earlier years are based on 100 percent of the birth certificates registered in all States and the District of Columbia. More than 99 percent of births occurring in this country are registered. Data shown for 1998 are preliminary, based on a sample file of more than 99 percent of births for that year (1). Tabulations by State also include Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. However, totals shown for the United States do not include these areas.

Tabulations by race and Hispanic origin of mother are based on this information as reported on the birth certificate. Race and Hispanic origin are reported as separate items on the birth certificate. Although the overwhelming majority of Hispanic births (97 percent) are to white women, substantial differences in teenage childbearing patterns exist between Hispanic and non- Hispanic white women. Therefore data are shown separately for these groups.

Population data for computing birth rates were provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (3,5). Rates by State shown here may differ from rates computed on the basis of other population estimates. State rates are based on mother's place of residence. Population estimates by race and Hispanic origin are not available for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. Rates are not available for American Samoa for 1991, because birth data were not collected.

Rates were not computed if there were fewer than 20 births in the numerator or fewer than 1,000 women in the specified group in the denominator. An asterisk is shown in place of the rate. Additional information on the tabulation of birth data by race, random variation, and relative standard error is provided in earlier reports (1,6).

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Suggested citation

Ventura SJ, Mathews TJ, Curtin SC. Declines in teenage birth rates, 1991–98: Update of national and State trends. National vital statistics reports; vol 47 no. 26. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1999.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
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6525 Belcrest Road
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DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 2000–1120
9-0750 (10/99)

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